

I M P

From imposition of strict laws, to free
Acceptance of large grace; from servile fear
To filial; works of law, to works of faith. *Milt. P. Lst.*

4. Confrant; oppression.
The confrant of receiving and holding opinions by author-
ity was rightly called *imposition*. *Locke.*
A greater load has been laid on us than we have been able
to bear, and the grossest *impositions* have been submitted to, in
order to forward the dangerous designs of a faction. *Swift.*
Let it not be made, contrary to its own nature, the occa-
sion of strife, a narrow spirit, and unreasonable *impositions* on
the mind and practice. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

5. Cheat; fallacy; imposture.
IMPOSSIBLE. *adj.* [*impossibile*, Fr. in and possible.] Not to be
done; not to be attained; impracticable.
Unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoying;
but *impossible* desires are punished in the desire itself. *Sidney.*
It was *impossible* that the state should continue quiet. 2 *Mac.*
With men this is *impossible*; but with God all things are
possible. *Mat. xix. 26.*
'Twere *impossible* for any enterprize to be lawful, if that
which should legitimate it is subsequent to it. *Decay of Piety.*
Difficult it is, but not *impossible*. *Chillingworth.*
It is *impossible* the mind should be stopped any where in
its progress in this space, how far soever it extends its
thoughts. *Locke.*
We cannot believe it *impossible* to God to make a creature
with more ways to convey into the understanding the notice
of corporeal things than five. *Locke.*
I my thoughts deceive
With hope of things *impossible* to find. *Watts.*
IMPOSSIBILITY. *n. f.* [*impossibilitas*, Fr. from *impossible*.]
1. Impracticability; the state of being not feasible.
Simple Philoclea, it is the *impossibility* that doth torment
me; for unlawful desires are punished after the effect of enjoy-
ing, but *impossible* desires in the desire itself. *Sidney.*
Admit all these *impossibilities* and great absurdities to be pos-
sible and convenient. *White.*
Let the mutinous winds
Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fry sun,
Murdering *impossibility*, to make
What cannot be, flight work. *Shakespeare, Coriolanus.*
They confound difficulty with *impossibility*. *South.*
Those who assert the *impossibility* of space existing without
matter, must make body infinite. *Locke.*
When we see a man of like passions and weakness with our-
selves going before us in the paths of duty, it confutes all lazy
pretences of *impossibility*. *Rogers.*
2. That which cannot be done.
Though men do, without offence, with daily that the af-
fairs, which with evil success are past, might have fallen out
much better; yet to pray that they may have been any other
than they are, this being a manifest *impossibility* in itself, the
rules of religion do not permit. *Hooker.*
Impossibilities! oh no, there's none,
Could I bring thy heart captive home. *Cowley.*
IMPOST. *n. f.* [*impost*, *impost*, French; *impostum*, Latin.] A
tax; a toll; custom paid.
Taxes and *imposts* upon merchants do seldom good to the
king's revenue; for that that he wins in the hundred, he loses in
the three. *Bacon's Essays.*
IMPOSTS. *n. f.* [*impost*, Fr. *incumbat*, Latin.] In architecture,
that part of a pillar, in vaults and arches, on which the weight
of the whole building lieth. *Ainsworth.*
TO IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. n.* [from *imposthume*.] To form an
abscess; to gather; to form a cyst or bag containing matter.
The bruise *imposthumated*, and afterwards turned to a stink-
ing ulcer, which made every body fly to come near
her. *Arbutnot.*
TO IMPOSTHUMATE. *v. a.* To afflict with an imposthume.
They would not fly that surgeon, whose lancet threatens
none but the *imposthumated* parts. *Decay of Piety.*
IMPOSTHUMATION. *n. f.* [from *imposthume*.] The act of
forming an imposthume; the state in which an imposthume is
formed.
He that maketh the wound bleed inwards, endangereth ma-
lign ulcers and pernicious *imposthumations*. *Bacon's Essays.*
IMPOSTHUME. *n. f.* [This seems to have been formed by
corruption from *impostem*, as *South* writes it; and *impostem*
to have been written erroneously for *apostem*, ἀποστήμα, an ab-
scess.] A collection of purulent matter in a bag or cyst.
Now the rotten diseases of the South, ruptures, catarrhs,
and bladders full of *imposthumes*, make preposterous discove-
ries. *Shakespeare's Troilus and Cressida.*
An error in the judgment is like an *impostem* in the head,
which is always noisome, and frequently mortal. *South.*
Fumes cannot transude through the bag of an *imposthume*.
Harvey on Conjunctions.
IMPOSTOR. *n. f.* [*impostor*, Fr. from *impose*; *impostor*, Latin.]
One who cheats by a fictitious character.
Shame and pain, poverty and sickness, yea death and hell

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itself, are but the trophies of those fatal conquests got by that
grand *impostor*, the devil, over the deluded sons of men. *South.*
IMPOSTURE. *n. f.* [*impostura*, Fr. *impostura*, Latin.] Cheat;
fraud; supposititiousness; cheat committed by giving to per-
sons or things a false character.
That the soul and angels have nothing to do with grosser
locality is generally opinioned; but who is it that retains not
a great part of the *imposture*, by allowing them a definitive
ubi, which is still but imagination? *Glanv. Scpf.*
Open to them so many of the interior secrets of this mys-
terious art, without *imposture* or invidious reserve. *Evelyn.*
We know how successful the late usurper was, while his
army believed him real in his zeal against kingship; but when
they found out the *imposture*, upon his aspiring to the same
himself, he was presently deserted, and never able to crown his
usurped greatness with that title. *South.*
Form new legends,
And fill the world with follies and *impostures*. *Irene.*
IMPOTENCE. *n. f.* [*impotentia*, Latin.]
IMPOTENCY. *n. f.* [*impotentia*, Latin.]
1. Want of power; inability; imbecility; weakness.
Some were poor by *impotency* of nature; as young fatherless
children, old decrepit persons, idiots, and cripples. *Hay.*
Weakness, or the *impotence* of exercising animal motion,
attends fevers. *Arbutnot.*
God is a friend and a father, whose care supplies our wants,
and defends our *impotence*, and from whose compassion in Christ
we hope for eternal glory hereafter. *Rogers's Sermon.*
This is not a restraint or *impotency*, but the royal preroga-
tive of the most absolute king of kings; that he wills to do
nothing but what he can; and that he can do nothing which
is repugnant to his divine goodness. *Bentley.*
2. Ungovernableness of passion. A Latin signification: *animi*
impotentia.
Will he, so wise, let loose at once his ire,
Belike through *impotence*, or unaware,
To give his enemies their wish, and end
Them in his anger, whom his anger faves
To punish endless? *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Yet all combin'd,
Your beauty and my *impotence* of mind. *Dryden.*
3. Incapacity of propagation.
Dulness with obscenity must prove
As hateful, sure, as *impotence* in love. *Pope.*
IMFOTENT. *adj.* [*impotent*, Fr. *impotens*, Latin.]
1. Weak; feeble; wanting force; wanting power.
We that are strong must bear the imbecility of the *impotent*,
and not please ourselves.
Yet wealth is *impotent*
To gain dominion, or to keep it gain'd.
Although in dreadful whirls we hung,
High on the broken wave,
I knew thou wert not slow to hear,
Nor *impotent* to save. *Addison's Spectator.*
2. Disabled by nature or disease.
In those porches lay a great multitude of *impotent* folk, of
blind, halt, and withered. *Jo. v. 3.*
There sat a certain man, *impotent* in his feet, being a cri-
ple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. *Acts xiv.*
I have learn'd that fearful commenting
Is leaden servitor to dull delay;
Delay leads *impotent* and frail-pac'd beggary. *Shakespeare, R. III.*
3. Without power of restraint. [*Animi imp. tens.*]
With jealous eyes at distance he had seen,
Whispering with Jove, the silver-footed queen;
Then, *impotent* of tongue, her silence broke,
Thus turbulent in rattling tone the spoke. *Dryden.*
4. Without power of propagation.
He told beau Prim, who is thought *impotent*, that his mis-
tress would not have him, because he is a sloven, and had com-
mitted a rape. *Taylor.*
IMPOTENTLY. *adv.* [from *impotent*.] Without power.
Proud Cæsar, 'midst triumphal cars,
The spoils of nations, and the pomp of wars,
Ignobly vain, and *impotently* great,
Shew'd Rome her Cato's figure drawn in state. *Pope.*
TO IMPOUND. *v. a.* [*in* and *pound*. See *POUND*.]
1. To inclose as in a pound; to shut in; to confine.
The great care was rather how to *impound* the rebels, that
none of them might escape, than that any doubt was made to
vanquish them. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
2. To shut up in a pinfold.
England
Hath taken and *impounded* as a stray *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
The king
Seeing him wander about, I took him up for a stray, and the right
impounded him, with intention to restore him to the right
owner. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*
TO IMPOWER. See *EMPOWER*.
IMPRACICABLE. *adj.* [*impracticable*, Fr. in and practicable.]
1. Not to be performed; unfeasible; impossible. *Hud.*

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Had there not been still remaining bodies, the legitimate
offspring of the antediluvian earth, 'twould have been an ex-
travagant and *impracticable* undertaking to have gone about to
determine any thing concerning it. *Woodward's Nat. Hist.*
To reach up the necessity of that which our experience
tells us is utterly *impracticable*, were to affright mankind with
the terrible prospect of universal damnation. *Rogers's Sermon.*

2. Untractable; unmanageable.
That fierce *impracticable* nature
Is govern'd by a dainty-finger'd girl. *Rome.*
IMPRACICABLENESS. *n. f.* [from *impracticable*.] Impossibility.
I do not know a greater mark of an able minister than that
of rightly adapting the several faculties of men, nor is any
thing more to be lamented than the *impracticableness* of doing
this. *Swift.*
TO IMPRECATE. *v. a.* [*imprecator*, Latin.] To call for evil
upon himself or others.
IMPRECATION. *n. f.* [*imprecatio*, Lat. *imprecation*, Fr. from
imprecate.] Curse; prayer by which any evil is wished.
My mother shall the horrid furies raise
With *imprecations*. *Chapman's Odyssey.*
Sir John Hotham, uncurst by any language or *imprecation*
of mine, not long after paid his own and his eldest son's
heads. *King Charles.*
With *imprecations* thus he fill'd the air,
And angry Neptune heard th' unrighteous pray'r. *Pope.*
IMPRECATORY. *adj.* [from *imprecate*.] Containing wishes of
evil.
TO IMPREGN. *v. a.* [*in* and *pregno*, Latin.] To fill with
young; to fill with any matter or quality.
In her ears the found
Yet rung of his persuasive words, *impregn'd*
With reason, to her feeling. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
Th' unfruitful rock itself, *impregn'd* by thee,
Forms lucid stones. *Thomson's Summer.*
IMPREGNABLE. *adj.* [*imprenable*, French.]
1. Not to be storm'd; not to be taken.
Two giants kept themselves in a castle, seated upon the top
of a rock, *imprenable*, because there was no coming to it but
by one narrow path, where one man's force was able to keep
down an army.
Let us be back'd with God, and with the seas,
Which he hath given for fence *imprenable*,
And with their helps alone defend ourselves. *Shakespeare, H. VI.*
Hast thou not him, and all
Which he calls his, inclosed with a wall
Of strength *imprenable*? *Sandys.*
There the capitol thou see'st,
Above the rest lifting his stately head
On the Tarpeian rock, her citadel
imprenable. *Milton's Paradise Regain'd, b. iv.*
2. Unshaken; unmoved; unaffected.
The man's affection remains wholly unconcerned and *impre-
nable*; just like a rock, which, being plied continually by
the waves, still throws them back again, but is not at all
moved. *South's Sermons.*
IMPREGNABLY. *adv.* [from *imprenable*.] In such a manner
as to defy force or hostility.
A castle strongly seated on a high rock, joineth by an isthmus
to the land, and is *impregnably* fortified. *Sandys.*
TO IMPREGNATE. *v. a.* [*in* and *pregno*, Latin.]
1. To fill with young; to make prolific.
Hermaphrodites, although they include the parts of both
sexes, cannot *impregnate* themselves. *Brown's Vulg. Err.*
Impregnate, from their loins they shed
A slimy juice. *Dryden's Virg. Georg.*
With native earth their blood the monsters mix'd;
The blood, endu'd with animating heat,
Did in the *impregnate* earth new sons beget. *Dryden.*
2. [*Impregner*, French.] To fill; to saturate.
Christianity is of so prolific a nature, so apt to *impregnate*
the hearts and lives of its profelytes, that it is hard to imagine
that any branch should want a due fertility. *Decay of Piety.*
IMPREGNATION. *n. f.* [from *impregnate*.]
1. The act of making prolific; fecundation.
They ought to refer matters unto counsellors, which is the first
beggetting or *impregnation*; but when they are elaborate in the
womb of their counsel, and grow ripe to be brought forth,
then they take the matter back into their own hands. *Bacon.*
2. That with which any thing is *impregnated*.
What could implant in the body such peculiar *impregnations*,
as should have such power? *Derham's Physico-Theology.*
3. [*Impregnation*, French.] Saturation.
IMPREJUDICATE. *adj.* [*in*, *præ*, and *judice*, Latin.] Unpre-
judiced; not prepossessed; impartial.
The solid reason of one man with *imprejudicate* apprehen-
sions, begets as firm a belief as the authority or aggregated
testimony of many hundreds. *Brown.*
IMPREPARATION. *n. f.* [*in* and *preparation*.] Unprepared-
ness; want of preparation.
Impreparation and unreadiness when they find in us, they
turn it to the footing up of themselves. *Hester.*

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TO IMPRESS. *v. a.* [*impressum*, Latin.]
1. To print by pressure; to stamp.
So foul and ugly, that exceeding fear
Their visages *impress*, when they approached near. *Fa. Qu.*
When God from earth form'd Adam in the east,
He his own image on the clay *impress*. *Denham.*
The conquering chief his foot *impress*
On the strong neck of that destructive beast. *Dryden, Ovid.*
2. To fix deep.
We should dwell upon the arguments, and *impress* the mo-
tives of persuasion upon our own hearts, 'till we feel the force
of them. *Watts.*
3. To force into service. This is generally now spoken and
written *press*.
His age has charms in it, his title more,
To pluck the common bosoms on his side,
And turn our *impress* launces in our eyes
Which do command them. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*
Macbeth shall never vanquish'd be, until
Great Birnam-wood to Dunfinane's high hill
Shall come against him.
—That will never be:
Who can *impress* the forest, bid the tree
Unfix his earth-bound root? *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
Ormond should contribute all he could for the making those
levies of men, and for *impressing* of ships. *Clarendon.*
IMPRESS. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Mark made by pressure.
This weak *impress* of love is as a figure
Trench'd in ice, which with an hour's heat
Dissolves to water. *Shakespeare, Two Gent. of Verona.*
They having taken the *impresses* of the infides of these shells
with that exquisite niceness, as to express even the finest line-
aments of them. *Woodward's Nat. History.*
2. Effects upon another substance.
How objects are represented to myself I cannot be igno-
rant; but in what manner they are received, and what *im-
presses* they make upon the differing organs of another, he only
knows that feels them. *Glanv. Scpf.*
3. Mark of distinction; stamp.
God, surveying the works of the creation, leaves us this
general *impress* or character upon them, that they were ex-
ceeding good. *South's Sermons.*
4. Device; motto.
To describe emblazon'd shields,
Impresses quaint, caparisons, and steeds,
Bales, and tinsel trappings. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*
5. Act of forcing any into service; compulsion; seizure. Now
commonly *press*.
Ajax was here the voluntary, and you as under an *im-
press*. *Shakespeare, Troilus and Cressida.*
Why such *impress* of shipwrights, whose fore task
Does not divide the Sunday from the week. *Shakespeare, Hamlet.*
Your ships are not well mann'd;
Your mariners are multieers, reapers, people
Ingross'd by swift *impresses*. *Shakespeare, Ant. and Cleopatra.*
IMPRESSION. *n. f.* [*impressio*, Latin; *impression*, Fr.]
1. The act of pressing one body upon another.
Sensation is such an *impression* or motion, made in some
part of the body, as produces some perception in the under-
standing. *Locke.*
2. Mark made by pressure; stamp.
Like to a chaos, or unlick'd bear-whelp,
That carries no *impression* like the dam. *Shakespeare, Henry VI.*
3. Image fixed in the mind.
Were the offices of religion stript of all the external decen-
cies, they would not make a due *impression* on the mind. *Atter.*
The false representations of the kingdom's enemies had
made some *impression* in the mind of the successor. *Swift.*
4. Operation; influence.
The king had made him high sheriff of Suffex, that he
might the better make *impression* upon that county. *Clarendon.*
We lie open to the *impressions* of flattery, which we admit
without scruple, because we think we deserve it. *Atterbury.*
Universal gravitation is above all mechanism, and proceeds
from a divine energy and *impression*. *Bentley's Sermon.*
There is a real knowledge of material things, when the
thing itself, and the real action and *impression* thereof on our
senses, is perceived. *Cheyne's Phil. Princ.*
5. Edition; number printed at once; one course of printing.
To be distracted with many opinions, makes men to be of
the last *impression*, and full of change. *Bacon.*
For ten *impresses* in, which his works have had in so many
years, at present a hundred books are scarcely purchased once
a twelvemonth. *Dryden.*
6. Effect of an attack.
Such a defeat of near two hundred horse, seconded with two
thousand foot, may surely endure a comparison with any of
the bravest *impressions* in ancient times. *Watson.*
IMPRESSIONABLE. *adj.* [*in* and *pressum*, Lat.] What may be im-
pressed.